

Introduced by Senator Liu

March 1, 2011

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1—Relative to the federal Morrill Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 1, as introduced, Liu. Postsecondary education: the Morrill Act.

This measure would congratulate the President of the United States and the Congress on their foresight in enacting the Morrill Act which allowed for the establishment of land grant colleges in the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 1862, the United States was engaged in a Civil
2 War which divided the nation and depleted its treasury; and
3 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States sought to
4 energize the vital intellectual resources of the nation by making
5 higher education accessible to the public, and thereby apply that
6 intellectual capacity to stimulate the national economy which, at
7 the time, was based in agriculture and mechanical arts; and
8 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln supported, encouraged,
9 and signed this legislation because it contained ideals that united
10 the North and the South and was able to be executed through the
11 allocation of land grants; and
12 WHEREAS, This legislation, known as the Morrill Act,
13 manifested itself in California with the establishment of the
14 University of California; and
15 WHEREAS, The impact of the University of California, and its
16 sister public institutions, the California State Universities and the
17 California Community Colleges, have educated millions of
18 Californians, strengthened not only the state’s agriculture industry

1 as premised by the Morrill Act, but continued to assist the state's
 2 economy in each successive wave of innovation, including the
 3 industrial age and the information age; and
 4 WHEREAS, The people of California have experienced a
 5 profound benefit from the Morrill Act; now, therefore, be it
 6 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
 7 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature respectfully congratulates
 8 the President of the United States and the Congress on their
 9 foresight in passing the Morrill Act and memorializes them to
 10 renew their commitment to accessible higher education and the
 11 support of research in the interest of the nation; and be it further
 12 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
 13 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
 14 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
 15 Majority leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
 16 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
 17 author for appropriate distribution.